



WILDFOWLING

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Rebellion On Western Marshes

STATES CUT DUCK BAG LIMITS TO PRESERVE BREEDING STOCK.

MALLARDS, PINTAILS AND GREEN-WINGS DECLINE.

Expecting a sharp decrease in the autumn flight of mallards, pintails and green-winged teal, Pacific Flyway states this season are cutting duck bag limits in hopes of protecting breeding stocks.

This flyway stands alone in taking restrictive actions despite surveys which show continental mallard and pintail numbers at an all-time low, and green-winged teal at their lowest level in nearly 20 years.

The restrictive bag limits are below the so-called "federal frameworks," and represent the first significant effort in the nation to reduce the kill since the crippling drought began in 1980.

The biggest impact will occur in California, the state which kills the greatest number of ducks in the flyway and where the small but mighty California Waterfowl Association clashed with Ducks Unlimited, which opposed the move to cut bag limits.

Dan Chapin of the California Waterfowl Association said a special study by his organization prompted efforts to lower the bag limit and shorten the season length.

Three key findings triggered the move to reduce the kill, he said. These were:

1. A decline in breeding numbers.
2. Devastation of small wetlands, including not only the loss of small potholes but the destruction of adjacent upland nesting cover.

3. The absence of nesting ducks on areas where suitable habitat remained.

"The prime breeding area for our pintails is the pothole country of southern Alberta and southern Saskatchewan," he said. "Because of the drought, 43 percent of the potholes and 92 percent of the upland nesting habitat is now under the plow."

This loss, he said, has occurred since the current drought began.

Even if rains filled the potholes next year, the loss of vegetation adjacent to the potholes will deprive ducks of places to nest, he said.

"We're going to be starting from scratch. It will be three to four years before nesting

habitat can re-establish itself."

Even more alarming than the decline in breeding ducks or loss of habitat, he said, was the fact that this spring there were too few breeding ducks to utilize the marshes and sloughs that were not baked dry by the drought.

The flight of pintails this season in the Pacific Flyway is expected to be drop from two and one-half million last year to one and one-half million this year, a decline of 40 percent in one year, he noted.

Pacific Flyway biologists earlier urged cutting the bag limit and reducing the season length, only to be overruled by state fish and game commissioners. Ducks Unlimited also supported retaining the same bag limits and season length as last year.

Bolstered by its findings, the California Waterfowl Association pressured the California fish and game commission to reduce the kill. Instead of a 93-day season and 7-duck daily bag limit, hunters in California this year will have a five-duck bag limit. One week also will be cut off the end of the season, traditionally the time of the best hunting in the state.

Asked about opposition to the cuts, Chapin replied, "It wasn't much of a fight -- except for Ducks Unlimited. The man-in-the-street duck hunter ... he knows" the problems facing the ducks.

Ducks Unlimited made no special study of the problems facing the Pacific Flyway, arguing instead that no changes in bag limits or season lengths should be made due to a nationwide stabilized regulation study to determine the effect of the gun on breeding populations.

"That was not a valid reason for not doing anything", said Chapin, pointing out that the Pacific Flyway has had stabilized regulations for the past nine years.

"This would have been our 10th year of stabilized regulations."

Moreover, arguing for a nationwide program "abandons the whole flyway concept" to enable each flyway to adopt regulations peculiar to it.



SNOW GOOSE

MALLARD

REDHEAD

The California Waterfowl Association sought to cut the daily bag from seven to four ducks, and reduce the season length by two weeks. It estimated this would have reduced the kill of pintails by about 40 percent, mallards by 30 percent and green-winged teal by 50 percent.

In the end, it compromised.

"We probably had enough support on the commission to get the extra week. But rather than jam it down the throat, we decided to compromise and make sure the DU position did not prevail," said Chapin.

The state of Utah also reduced its bag limit to five daily, and reduced its season length by a week, delaying the opening for seven days to give locally nesting ducks a better chance to get on the wing.

The California Department of Fish and Game estimates this year a 5-duck daily limit, coupled with a week shorter season, will reduce the overall kill by 22 percent.

While these were the major changes, other Pacific Flyway states also took action to protect breeding stocks. Hunters in Arizona, Montana, Nevada, Oregon and Washington, will be able to include only four pintails in their seven bird daily bag. Montana hunters will also be restricted to no more than four mallards (only one on which may be a female). And in western Colorado, hunters will be permitted only to kill no more than two hen mallards daily.

The only Pacific Flyway state which did not take restrictive action this year was Idaho.

High Black Duck Kill Poses New Problems

Biologists are saying, "Whoops! Where did we go wrong?" following the reported kill of black ducks last year.

The black duck kill along the Atlantic Flyway fell 18 percent last season following the imposition of new hunting restrictions.

But in the Mississippi Flyway, where all hunters were prohibited from shooting no more than one black per day, the kill last season increased 32 percent. Only Minnesota reported a lower kill. In the remaining 12 states, hunters shot more black ducks than during the preceding season.

Nationwide, the kill fell 7.4 per cent, from 235,453 to 217,983, with 16 out of 29 states reporting bagging more blacks than the previous season.

The purpose of the new restrictions, which included shorter seasons, reduced bag limits and modified hunting season dates, was to lower the kill by 25 percent. Officials hoped the reduced kill would reverse the downward population trend of the species.

The failure to achieve the desired 25 percent cutback has not unduly alarmed authorities. Instead of imposing further restrictions, they probably will change the so-called data-base.

What this means is that instead of comparing last season's kill with the 1982-83 season, they will use a new standard, probably the average seasonal kill for the five year period from 1977-'81. This is expected to lower the standard to the point where last season's kill would meet or exceed the 25 percent goal.

Whatever, here is a state-by-state tabulation of the black duck kill comparing the past two seasons, with the percentage decrease or increase.

ATLANTIC FLYWAY

State	83-84	82-83	Pct.
Pennsylvania	5,125	12,346	-59%
Connecticut	3,944	8,672	-55%
Vermont	3,057	5,032	-38%
New Hampshire	5,049	7,731	-35%
North Carolina	5,488	8,003	-31%
Maine	11,293	15,127	-25%
New York	29,677	34,993	-15%
Virginia	14,654	17,062	-14%
Maryland	10,642	12,162	-13%
New Jersey	28,164	31,440	-10%
Massachusetts	19,695	20,977	-6%
West Virginia	490	487	NC
Delaware	6,182	5,560	+11%
Georgia	1,215	1,023	+20%
Rhode Island	3,584	2,568	+38%
South Carolina	5,520	3,425	+62%
Florida	300	118	+200%

MISSISSIPPI FLYWAY

State	83-84	82-83	Pct.
Minnesota	2,089	4,085	-51%
Indiana	2,562	2,541	+1%
Michigan	9,499	9,008	+5%
Wisconsin	6,458	5,993	+8%
Illinois	5,117	4,583	+12%
Tennessee	13,601	11,376	+20%
Kentucky	3,554	2,780	+28%
Iowa	603	419	+44%
Ohio	8,676	4,339	+100%
Alabama	3,132	1,528	+105%
Arkansas	3,153	975	+233%
Mississippi	3,101	831	+273%
Louisiana	2,270	None	---

STEEL-SHOT STATEWIDE

By a 7-0 vote, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission voted to require steel shot for all waterfowl hunting beginning with the 1985 hunting season. It is the first state to require steel for all waterfowl shooting. A similar measure is pending in Iowa, with a vote scheduled in December.



Special Canvasback Season Results In High Kill

The special canvasback season last year marked the first time in a quarter-century that you could legally kill four canvasbacks daily.

Sadly, the short special season was restricted to only five Atlantic Flyway states. Those of you who gun in the upper Midwest, where canvasbacks gather in enormous numbers during the autumn migration, were not given the same opportunity.

But many hunters last year season did not find the special season to be the grand shoot-out hoped for. The reason was the weather. Ice and low temperatures apparently caused the birds to abandon traditional wintering areas.

Nonetheless, some hunters found good shooting. A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service tally show Marland reported the highest bag of canvasbacks. The estimated retrieved kill by state for hunters who went afield during the special season was:

Maryland, 8,965; Virginia, 1,847; North Carolina, 1,497; New York, 925 and New Jersey, 311.

The total five-state kill, including an estimated 18 percent crippling rate, was 10,578 canvasbacks.

One interesting note concerned the high kill of females. Nearly one out of every four birds shot was a hen, the approximate proportion of females to males in the overall population. This would indicate that hunters were not selective in shooting drakes. (The season was designed to kill the surplus drakes in the population.)

Of equal importance was the fact that heavy ice cover prevented many hunters from gunning during the short five-to-11 day season. Some expect the kill to be much greater this season if normal weather patterns hold.

•NEW DUCK "CRIME"•

Arkansas duck shooters do not idly watch mallards wings across flooded timber -- much to the distress of authorities. They are cutting timber to create open holes attractive to mallards. The holes makes it easier for ducks to see decoys.

But this indiscriminate cutting on flooded waterfowl management areas upsets management plans by creating too many holes in the timber. They also result in a smaller food supply.

As a result, authorities have declared this to be illegal. In addition, they now have authority to prohibit any form of hunting on the secret holes, a move they hope will discourage hunters from creating more new holes.

Are You Looking For Wood Working Decoys?

At \$540 a dozen, Terry McNulty's wooden gunning decoys are not the kind of item you buy on impulse. But they are magnificent decoys, and if you like to gun in style his blocks have tremendous allure.

McNulty, a duck hunter, founded the Delaware River Decoy Co. with the idea of providing first class wooden decoys for hunters who seek quality experiences afield.

His shooting decoys are magnificent. We examined two samples -- mallard and canvasback. Both are of the highest quality. These gunning decoys are good enough to be used as decorative blocks on the mantel.

He supplies three hens and nine drakes per dozen, and includes both high and low necks. Species include bluebill, widgeon, green-winged teal, black duck, redhead, mallard, canvasback, pintail, brant and wood duck.

Manufacturers of wooden shooting decoys seem to come and go, generally disappearing rather rapidly. If they remain in business, it generally is to make so-called decorative decoys which are never intended for use afield.

McNulty is hoping there are sufficient numbers of hunters who enjoy tradition by gunning over wooden decoys, much like our grandfathers used to do.

As such, he is an anachronism in the business world. But if duck hunting means more to you than simply tossing a few Italian-made plastic blocks onto the water and shooting whatever wings within range, then you may want to consider his decoys.

They are expensive. But even if no ducks are flying, you can look at them riding the waves and still find immense enjoyment. These blocks are very highly recommended.

For more information write: Delaware River Decoy Co., Lincoln & Pulaski Ave., Riverside, N.J. 08075. Phone is (609) 461-7514.

•ALASKA EMERGENCY•

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has cut the bag limit on emperor geese and black brant in an emergency action designed to stop downward population declines.

Emperor geese fell from 139,000 in 1986 to 71,000 last winter. As a result, the state cut the bag limit from six to two daily.

At the same time, it cut the bag on Pacific brant to two daily. Previously hunters were allowed to shoot four.

"The reduction in bag and possession limits is necessary for the immediate preservation of these goose species," the department said.

Steel Shot "Solution" Abandons Old Concepts

(This is the fourth and final installment of our steel-shot series. It focuses on a solution that could resolve the problems that have plagued the current program since its inception. -- The Editor.)

Whatever views a hunter holds regarding steel shot, virtually all are in agreement about one thing: the program is controversial. Debates rage about crippling losses, the high cost of steel shells, the numbers of ducks and geese which allegedly die from eating spent pellets.

The program, which began in the Atlantic Flyway in the mid 1970s, has divided hunters into two camps: prosteel and antisteel. Few hunters are found in the neutral ground of undecided.

The only area where there is agreement lies in the middle ground of "hot spots." Most critics of steel admit there are locations where excessive numbers of ducks and geese die of lead poisoning and that hunters in these areas should be required to shoot steel.

But further compromise often proves futile. What is needed, obviously, is a new approach to solving the problem.

Perhaps the best solution we have heard to date is to abandon the current program and convert to steel shot in the manner in which lead was removed from gasoline.

For example, establish a basic goal to require 75 percent of all commercially loaded shotgun ammunition in shot sizes from No. 2 to 7 1/2 to be loaded with nontoxic ammunition within five years.

As a practical matter, interim goals would be set. In year one, 35 percent would have to be nontoxic. In year two, 45 percent. At the end of five years, 75 percent would be nontoxic.

With the exception of certain hot spots, eliminate laws requiring waterfowl hunters to shoot steel.

This would have several effects. All hunters would be affected, not just waterfowlers. This would eliminate complaints from duck hunters that the current program is discriminatory. East Coast hunters, for example, have complained that rail shooters were not required to shoot steel and

deposited lead on the bottoms of marshes where they were forced to shoot steel. Dove shooters in Texas deposit heavy loads of lead in small lakes or playas in the panhandle which are picked up by ducks. Arkansas mallard shooters have complained about shotgun toting squirrel hunters in the pin oak flats.

Since steel would be the predominant load, the price of steel loads would fall below those of lead, eliminating the cost differential.

Hunters with fine double shotguns, or those with kids who used .410s, would still be able to hunt waterfowl, since they could buy lead loads and shoot them in all but hot-spot areas. True, the shells would probably be more expensive than comparable steel loads, but this should place no undue financial burden on these hunters.

Since many hunters buy the least expensive loads, the rail shooters, dove hunters and squirrel hunters would probably convert to steel, eliminating a major source of spent lead in wetland areas.

Handloaders could still reload with lead shot -- and use it afield except in certain hot spots.

Enforcement would be simple since it would focus on the manufacturer -- not the hunter in the field.

Each hunter could choose his load -- inexpensive steel or high-cost lead.

Critics of steel with whom we have talked find no difficulty with this proposal on the whole. Its primary drawback, they say, is that it does not solve the crippling problem inherent with steel.

But here is where market forces come into play. With 75 percent of the market guaranteed to be nontoxic, the economics of nontoxic shot change radically.

New manufacturing processes, new metals, new plastic-metal combinations suddenly become economically feasible. Thus, new loads could be expected to come onto the market with ballistic properties that could rival those of lead and be nontoxic to wildlife.

The manufacturer who came up with a load rivaling lead could be expected to reap the reward, an incentive that probably would spur a new round of research and development.

Tax incentives could be given to ammunition makers to help defray the cost of switching to nontoxic pellets.

A number of upland hunters might object, although at the close ranges most upland birds are shot steel loads are more than adequate. Besides, they could still buy lead loads, although they would be slightly more expensive.

Some conservation organizations might complain that we should eliminate lead altogether. This is not a new complaint.

But the advantages are tremendous. The amount of lead deposited by all hunters would be reduced significantly. Nontoxic shells would be in ample supply, and at less cost than comparable lead loads. You, the hunter, would have a choice of lead or steel. And the ammunition manufacturers would have the incentive to come up better nontoxic loads than those which are currently available.

A Wildfowling Opinion

THE POINT-SYSTEM DILEMMA

All too often biologists come up with schemes that make sense to other field biologists or central-office biocrats (biologists who have become full-time bureaucrats.) Rarely do their ideas make sense to waterfowl hunters.

But Tom Sporre of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources is an exception. His most recent idea is not only commendable to Hoosier waterfowlers, but to ducks shooters in many other states.

What Sporre proposed this summer is simple. He suggested abandoning the point system, replacing it with conventional regulations.

Under the point system, the maximum allowable bag is 10 ducks daily. Under conventional regulations, you can shoot a maximum of five ducks daily.

Sporre's reasoning is simple. "We are hurting ourselves nine out of 10 days, or more, by using the point system."

Under conventional regs, hunters can include in the five-bird bag no more than three mallards (only two of which can be hens), two wood ducks, one canvasback, one redhead, and one black duck.

A few possible limits under these regulations, Sporre says, are:

1. Three drake mallards, one black duck and one wood duck.
2. One drake mallard, two hen mallards, one black duck and one wood duck.
3. Two wood ducks and three drake mallards.
4. Two wood ducks, two mallards and one black duck.
5. Three scaup, one redhead and one canvasback.

"The list goes on and on," Sporre says. "I think most of those combinations listed are much more realistic for us than the few times we get a chance to shoot four drake mallards, 10 scaup, 10 gadwalls, 10 pintails, 10 teal or a combination of those."

Sporre believes most Hoosier waterfowl hunters are exposed to too many high-point birds.

"Early in the season we have a lot of wood ducks and mallards, and three of those (hen mallards, hen wood ducks, drake wood ducks) four birds are 70-pointers. Late in the season it's mallards and blacks. Two of those (drake and hen blacks) are 100-pointers, one is 70 points (hen mallards) and

the other is 25."

Since a point-system limit is reached when a hunter's total points reaches or exceeds 100, black ducks represents a one-bird limit. Two hen mallards or two wood ducks constitute a daily limit. Given the high-point species available, Sporre correctly believes "that doesn't give us much to shoot at."

"The guy who wants to shoot four drake mallards under the point system can occasionally pull that off. But under conventional regulations he can lead off the day with a black duck, which would finish him under the point system, then still shoot a wood duck and three drake mallards.

"A guy can also shoot a pair of wood ducks at first light, without having to wait for mallards, because he can still shoot three mallards, or two mallards and a black, after assuring himself he's going home with two ducks at the minimum."

Indeed, several years ago we published an analysis of the point system, and discovered only two states in which most hunters benefitted.

Sporre's suggestion is particularly pertinent to East Coast hunters in point-system states like New Jersey and Maryland where large numbers of 100-point black ducks are shot.

Asked how hunters reacted to his proposal, Sporre said, "I got an awful lot of people who said, 'Hey, let's go with it.'"

But the change found opposition from the Indiana Waterfowl Association, and from hunters who violate the law by re-ordering the sequence in which the birds were shot, thereby increasing their bag.

"Most of those who favor the point system are just re-ordering," he said.

Sporre, of course, is right. Changing to conventional regulations would benefit most duck hunters in states where the point system is now in effect.

There also are hunters who refuse to recognize reality, who think in terms of 10-bird bags despite the fact they rarely ever kill 10 ducks.

"I guess the question comes down to whether a guy's willing to forfeit that almost mystical opportunity to shoot 10 ducks a day in exchange for an almost guaranteed two or three bird minimum if he's into any birds at all under conventional regs," he said.



THE 1983-84 GOOSE SEASON OFFICIAL RESULTS

The final results have been tabulated by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Unlike duck hunting, goose hunting gets better each year. In this wrap-up, the first section focuses on highlights, followed by the kill by flyway and the state-by-state breakdown.

•GUNNING HIGHLIGHTS•

The biggest news out of the 1983-84 season concerns the Canada goose kill in Maryland. As we predicted during the season, Maryland last year posted a record honker kill. Hunters bagged 310,325 Canada geese. That's 24 percent more than were killed in the record 1980-81 season, when hunters shot 250,523. The reasons for the high kill include the PIK program which took a lot of acreage out of production, forcing the geese to feed in fewer fields, and harsh weather, which kept the flocks flying.

Another bright area for Canada goose shooting last season occurred in the neck of the woods where the Mississippi and Ohio rivers confluence. Illinois shooters bagged 46,752, a 72 percent increase over the previous year; Kentucky hunters knocked off 27,095, a 324 percent increase over the preceeding season, and Tennessee sharpshooters bagged 21,855, a 226% percent increase. Little wonder harsh restrictions were imposed this season to protect the so-called Mississippi Valley Population of honkers.

Five states generally share top honors each year for killing the most geese. They are Texas, California, Maryland, Louisiana and North Dakota. All but Texas last season reported an increased kill. Maryland ranked

first, with a reported all-species kill of 321,381 geese, followed by Louisiana, 202,020; Texas, 182,696; North Dakota, 163,045 and California, 131,245. In terms of average seasonal bag per hunter, Maryland shooters averaged 6.54 birds; North Dakota, 3.12 geese; Texas, 1.79 geese; Louisiana, 1.64 and California, 1.28.

Atlantic Coast brant shooting picked up substantially last season, with a 59 percent increase in the kill. With the daily bag limit this year being raised from two to four, the kill should increase even more significantly this year. And that is good news. Only a few years ago the season was closed on brant because its population fell to record low numbers.

Where's the best place to shoot geese without a guide in the United States? North Dakota is probably your best choice. The state holds tens of thousands of birds, permission to hunt is easy to obtain and competition is not severe during the week. One drawback is the fact the state in many areas restricts the number of nonresident hunters. A hunting license may be difficult to obtain if you wait until the last minute. And a lot of gunning is pass shooting at ranges that can be described as long, longer and "Good God, you fired at that goose?"

•KILL BY FLYWAYS•

The following tables show the kill for each species by flyway, along with the percentage increase or decrease from the previous season. As you can see, goose hunting improved in all four flyways last season, with the biggest increase posted in the Atlantic Flyway.

ATLANTIC FLYWAY

Species	82-83	83-84	Pct.
Canada Geese	383,600	518,200	+35%
Snow Geese	21,700	43,100	+99%
Blue Geese	---	900	--
White-Fronts	500	300	-40%
Brant	23,600	37,600	+59%
Total	429,400	600,100	+40%

MISSISSIPPI FLYWAY

Species	82-83	83-84	Pct.
Canada Geese	290,200	310,100	+7%
Snow Geese	31,300	79,200	+153%
Blue Geese	93,100	114,800	+23%
White-Fronts	51,400	63,500	+24%
Ross' Geese	4,300	300	-93%
Total	470,300	567,900	+21%

CENTRAL FLYWAY

Species	82-83	83-84	Pct.
Canada Geese	213,500	243,300	+14%

PACIFIC FLYWAY

Species	82-83	83-84	Pct.
Canada Geese	211,400	249,300	+18%



COMMON EIDER

SHOVELER

ROSS' GOOSE

Snow Geese	166,700	163,300	-2%	Snow Geese	33,100	48,700	+47%
Blue Geese	75,100	87,500	+17%	White-Fronts	16,800	17,900	+7%
White-Fronts	63,000	51,200	-19%	Brant	900	5,200	+478%
Ross' Geese	2,100	1,700	-19%	Ross' Geese	7,500	7,700	+3%
Total	520,400	547,000	+5%	Emperor Geese	700	300	-57%
				Total	270,400	329,100	+22%

• STATE-BY-STATE KILL •

The tables below show the species breakdown and kill for each state. Wyoming, New Mexico, Montana and Colorado are listed in both the Central and Pacific flyways, with totals representing the number of geese bagged in the respective flyway portion of the state. Percentage figures represent the increase or decrease from the 1982-83 season. Dashes indicate no birds of that species were killed during the preceeding season. The total kill is tabulated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

ATLANTIC FLYWAY

<u>Connecticut</u>			
Canada Geese	7,390	+46%	
Snow Geese	85	--	
Brant	446	--	

<u>Delaware</u>			
Canada Geese	55,071	+34%	
Snow Geese	10,490	+64%	
Blue Geese	410	--	
Brant	172	-47%	

<u>Maine</u>			
Canada Geese	2,062	+148%	

<u>Maryland</u>			
Canada Geese	310,325	+57%	
Snow Geese	11,055	+274%	

<u>Massachusetts</u>			
Canada Geese	5,093	-8%	
Brant	1,832	+242%	

<u>New Hampshire</u>			
Canada Geese	1,289	+162%	

<u>New Jersey</u>			
Canada Geese	21,659	+58%	
Snow Geese	15,923	+58%	
Blue Geese	183	--	
Brant	7,977	-14%	

<u>New York</u>			
Canada Geese	55,816	-1%	
Snow Geese	256	--	
Brant	23,871	+130%	

<u>North Carolina</u>			
Canada Geese	4,766	-44%	
Snow Geese	5,102	+13%	
Blue Geese	265	--	
White-front	265	+50%	
Brant	1,919	+444%	

<u>Pennsylvania</u>			
Canada Geese	26,514	+4%	

<u>Rhode Island</u>			
Canada Geese	3,160	+16%	
Snow Geese	62	+182%	

<u>Vermont</u>			
Canada Geese	1,547	-47%	
Brant	86	--	

<u>Virginia</u>			
Canada Geese	23,250	+74%	
Snow Geese	103	+13%	
Brant	1,258	+124%	

<u>West Virginia</u>			
Canada Geese	282	-23%	

• MISSISSIPPI FLYWAY •

<u>Alabama</u>			
Canada Geese	1,599	+19%	
Snow Geese	103	--	
Blue Geese	52	--	

<u>Arkansas</u>			
Snow Geese	3,002	+185%	
Blue Geese	2,742	-68%	
White-Front	1,686	+213%	

<u>Illinois</u>			
Canada Geese	46,752	+72%	
Snow Geese	269	-74%	
Blue Geese	947	-58%	
White-Front	134	--	

<u>Iowa</u>			
Canada Geese	12,072	+19%	
Snow Geese	10,128	+81%	
Blue Geese	7,304	-13%	

<u>Kentucky</u>			
Canada Geese	27,095	+324%	
Snow Geese	538	--	

<u>Louisiana</u>			
Snow Geese	49,535	+168%	
Blue Geese	92,040	+42%	
White-Front	60,444	+20%	

<u>Michigan</u>			
Canada Geese	55,621	+8%	

<u>Minnesota</u>			
Canada Geese	54,035	-25%	
Snow Geese	811	--	
Blue Geese	542	-70%	
White-Front	542	--	

<u>Mississippi</u>			
Canada Geese	2,281	-11%	
Snow Geese	871	-13%	
Blue Geese	871	--	

<u>Missouri</u>			
Canada Geese	36,676	-11%	
Snow Geese	13,974	+257%	
Blue Geese	10,175	+84%	
White-Front	548	+65%	

<u>Ohio</u>			
Canada Geese	8,446	-29%	

<u>Tennessee</u>			
Canada Geese	21,855	+226%	

<u>Wisconsin</u>			
Canada Geese	35,313	-23%	
White-Front	166	--	

• CENTRAL FLYWAY •

<u>Colorado</u>			
Canada Geese	44,249	-1%	

<u>Kansas</u>			
Canada Geese	20,541	+107%	
Snow Geese	2,624	+241%	
Blue Geese	1,997	+208%	
White-Front	1,296	+19%	

<u>Montana</u>			
Canada Geese	6,444	+7%	
White-Front	55	-75%	

<u>Nebraska</u>			
Canada Geese	19,909	-6%	
Snow Geese	649	-65%	
Blue Geese	2,108	-22%	
White-Front	1,459	-12%	



WILDFOWLING

A Newsletter For Duck and Goose Hunters

Dear Subscriber:

A major problem facing every waterfowl hunter is finding a top guide, especially when hunting a new area. We are, therefore, sending you this guide evaluation form so that you can share with other subscribers your experiences-- both good and bad -- of guides you have hunted with or camps you have gunned. Please fill out the form below and return it to us. We will pass along your comments to other hunters. In turn, we will give you comments about guides and camps from other hunters. We think this will prove an invaluable service. Your cooperation is appreciated.

GUIDE/CAMP: Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____

LOCATION: Area Hunted _____ Dates: _____

TERRAIN: Marsh _____ Open Water _____ Stubble _____

TYPE GUNNING: Decoy _____ Pass Shooting _____ Other (specify) _____

GAME KILLED (By Species); Ducks _____
Geese _____

WEATHER CONDITIONS: _____

FOWL SEEN BUT NOT KILLED: _____

COST: _____. Would you recommend this hunt to a friend? _____

COMMENTS: _____

MY NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____

Please use the reverse side for additional comments, and mail to Wildfowling at the above address. Additional forms are available on request--- or photocopy this copy. Thanks. James H. Phillips, Editor.

P.O. Box 3435 • Annapolis, MD 21403 • 301 266-0687



WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE

WOOD DUCK

AMERICAN GOLDENEYE

<u>New Mexico</u>		
Canada Geese	4,489	+109%
Snow Geese	4,995	+141%
Blue Geese	383	+455%
White-Front	37	--

<u>North Dakota</u>		
Canada Geese	41,723	+85%
Snow Geese	70,794	+33%
Blue Geese	48,571	+49%
White-Front	1,956	+383%

<u>Oklahoma</u>		
Canada Geese	19,652	+226%
Snow Geese	2,434	+193%
Blue Geese	1,215	+291%
White-Front	870	-56%

<u>South Dakota</u>		
Canada Geese	41,782	-36%
Snow Geese	8,907	+58%
Blue Geese	7,500	+23%
White-Front	451	-54%

<u>Texas</u>		
Canada Geese	37,781	-7%
Snow Geese	72,859	-25%
Blue Geese	25,723	-16%
White-Front	45,089	-17%

<u>Wyoming</u>		
Canada Geese	6,691	+5%

• PACIFIC FLYWAY •

<u>Alaska</u>		
Canada Geese	9,172	+101%
Snow Geese	487	+1%
Brant	1,461	+606%
Others	325	-53%

<u>Arizona</u>		
Canada Geese	3,526	-47%
Snow Geese	63	-92%

<u>California</u>		
Canada Geese	58,679	+29%
Snow Geese	44,977	+74%
White-Front	16,812	+10%
Brant	3,714	--
Others	7,060	-1%

<u>Colorado</u>		
Canada Geese	2,500	+21%

<u>Idaho</u>		
Canada Geese	39,498	+9%

<u>Montana</u>		
Canada Geese	9,987	-5%
Snow Geese	2,005	-16%
White-Front	80	--

<u>Nevada</u>		
Canada Geese	8,585	+31%
Snow Geese	602	+871%
White-Fronts	75	+21%

<u>New Mexico</u>		
Canada Geese	389	+105%

<u>Oregon</u>		
Canada Geese	37,513	+14%
Snow Geese	695	-69%
White-Front	278	+38%

<u>Utah</u>		
Canada Geese	36,492	+56%

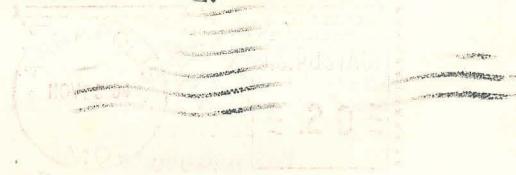
<u>Washington</u>		
Canada Geese	40,455	+8%
Snow Geese	360	-75%
White-Front	118	-88%

<u>Wyoming</u>		
Canada Geese	2,438	-10%



WILDFOWLING

P.O. Box 3435
Annapolis, Maryland 21403



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